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Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2016/17	$1,039,573,200
Expenditure for 2016/17	$1,028,134,900
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	$11,438,300
Appropriation for 2017/18	$910,941,200
Projected expenditure for 2017/18[a]	$907,040,300
Projected underexpenditure for 2017/18	$3,900,900
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	$782,590,500
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	($11,233,600)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	$771,356,900

[a] Estimates as at 28 February 2018.

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I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 2 May 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, can be found in its related report (A/72/789). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to UNAMID are discussed in paragraph 4 below.

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

2. In its resolution 70/284, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $1,039,573,200 gross ($1,015,090,200 net) for the maintenance of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Expenditures for the period totalled $1,028,134,900 gross ($1,004,208,000 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 98.9 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of $11,438,300, in gross terms, represents 1.1 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of: (a) lower-than-budgeted expenditures under civilian personnel ($5,120,400, or 2.0 per cent) and operational costs ($8,434,600, or 3.8 per cent); and (b) higher-than-budgeted expenditures under military and police personnel ($2,116,700, or 0.4 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/687).

3. The budget performance report indicates that, during the 2016/17 period, a total amount of $2,132,300 was redeployed to group I, military and police personnel, from group III, operational costs (ibid., para. 85). The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/794) in section IV below.

4. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNAMID, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to the Operation on the following matters: (a) mission structures (ibid., paras. 515–525; see para. 25 below); (b) standard costing of property, plant and equipment (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 20–21; see para. 5 below); (c) underspending of 5 per cent or more between appropriation and expenditure (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, table II.6); (d) aircraft utilization rate (ibid., table II.11); (e) the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe (ibid., para. 246); (f) temporary duty assignments (ibid., para. 288); (g) travel request compliance (ibid., table II.16); (h) vehicle management (ibid., paras. 347, 349, 351–352 and 356); and (i) energy production and consumption (ibid., paras. 446 and 449; see paras. 35–38 below). **The Committee trusts that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be implemented expeditiously.**

Standard costing of property, plant and equipment

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that, following the adoption of the accruals-based International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for the presentation of the financial statements of the Organization (resolution 60/283), data on buildings, infrastructure assets and assets under construction in peacekeeping operations have been collected for the opening balances since the 2013/14 financial period.[1] The Board of Auditors indicates that, while the Organization follows the current depreciated replacement cost methodology for self-constructed assets,[2] the Board has recommended that the Organization work towards recognizing actual costs for self-constructed items, as required by IPSAS (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 17–21). With regard to UNAMID, the Board has observed that inaccurate construction completion rates at two sites of the Operation led to overstated asset book values of $6 million for the 2016/17 financial period, and it was confirmed to the Board that a correcting entry of the same amount had been made during the 2017/18 period. **While the change of methodology recommended by the Board of Auditors under standard costing of property, plant and equipment is a matter cross-cutting in nature for all peacekeeping operations, the Committee expects that the Operation will ensure proper reporting and recording of self-constructed assets in the future.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), a joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID was undertaken from 5 to 17 March 2017 and the recommendations of the strategic review were presented to the Council in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General (S/2017/437) of 18 May 2017, which occurred after the presentation of the initial budget proposal of the Secretary-General for UNAMID for 2017/18 (A/71/775).[3] At that time, the General Assembly did not approve resources for UNAMID for the full period 2017/18 in expectation of the presentation of a revised budget for 2017/18, but decided, in its resolution 71/310, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding $486 million for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017 (A/72/636, para. 8). Subsequently, the Secretary-General submitted revised estimates for 2017/18 (A/72/563),[4] and the Assembly, in its resolution 72/259, decided to appropriate the amount of $910,941,200 for the period 2017/18, inclusive of the amount of $486 million previously authorized under the terms of its resolution 71/310.

7. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2018, expenditures amounted to $614,760,100. At the end of the current financial period, total expenditures are projected at 907,040,300 against the appropriation of $910,941,200, leaving an underexpenditure of $3,900,900, or 0.4 per cent.

8. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the incumbency of UNAMID uniformed and civilian personnel as at 28 February 2018, as follows:

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[1] See the report of the Advisory Committee on the seventh progress report on the adoption of IPSAS by the United Nations (A/69/414), para. 6.

[2] The current methodology was derived from costs originally measured at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti with adjustments made at each mission, which, in the view of the Board, can only be an estimate and was found to be prone to error (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 19).

[3] The related report of the Advisory Committee is contained in A/71/836/Add.7.

[4] The related report of the Advisory Committee is contained in A/72/636.

Category of personnel	*Planned*[a]	*Posts encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military and police personnel			
Military observers	119	101	15.1
Military contingent personnel	10 300	10 421	(1.2)
United Nations police personnel	1 028	1 002	2.5
Formed police unit personnel	1 540	1 559	(1.2)
Civilian personnel			
Posts			
International staff	725	673	7.2
National Professional Officers	176	159	9.7
National General Service staff	1 782	1 724	3.3
General temporary assistance			
International staff	16	16	–
National Professional Officers	1	–	100
National General Service staff	80	78	2.5
United Nations Volunteers			
International	134	117	12.7
National	4	4	–
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–

[a] Represents planned deployment for February 2018 in the approved 2017/18 budget in accordance with the phased downsizing of the Operation's military, police and civilian personnel (see paras. 6 and 11 and footnote 5 of the present report).

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 12 March 2018, a total of $15,139,469,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of the Operation since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $14,740,551,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $398,918,000. As at the same date, the cash available to the Operation amounted to $136,845,000, which is insufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of $147,387,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). **The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions (see resolution 70/247).**

10. The Advisory Committee was also informed that all claims for the reimbursement of troop costs had been settled up to 31 October 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $35,465,000 as at 31 December 2017. Contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to 30 September 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $61,734,000 as at 31 December 2017. With regard to death and disability compensation, as at 28 February 2018, an amount of $7,723,000 had been paid to settle 181 claims since the inception of the Operation; 15 claims were pending. **The Committee notes the high number of outstanding claims and trusts that those claims will be settled expeditiously.**

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

11. The mandate of UNAMID was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1769 (2007). The most recent extension of the mandate, until 30 June 2018, was authorized by the Council in its resolution 2363 (2017). In accordance with that resolution, UNAMID has started to downsize its military, police and civilian personnel in two phases during 2017/18, with the first phase concluded on 31 December 2017 and the second phase to conclude on 30 June 2018 (A/72/636, para. 10).

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that another joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID would be undertaken (see para. 6 above), with a view to considering a new mission concept with adjusted priorities before the renewal of the Operation's mandate in June 2018. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the joint strategic review team undertook a field visit in April 2018 and would deliver its report by 1 June 2018. The strategic review would evaluate the strategic priorities of the Operation, assess its geographic spread and further consider its future role and that of the United Nations country team with respect to stabilization activities in Darfur. The review would also look at the configuration and changes in the nature of UNAMID operations, including the authorized strength of the military and police components, the size and configuration of the civilian component and the withdrawal of the Operation from sectors or team sites.

13. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed budget for UNAMID for the 2018/19 period captured the Operation's requirements for a full 12-month period (A/72/794) but did not pre-empt any decision that the legislative bodies might take on the outcome of the joint strategic review of the Operation's mandate.

14. The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of the Operation for the 2018/19 period are summarized in paragraphs 8 to 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for 2018/19 (A/72/794).

B. Resource requirements

15. The proposed budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to $782,590,500, representing a decrease of $128,350,700, or 14.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. This reflects the combined effect of proposed decreases under military and police personnel ($106,829,100, or 22 per cent) and civilian personnel ($24,901,600, or 10.2 per cent), offset in part by proposed increases under operational costs ($3,380,000, or 1.9 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (A/72/794).

1. Military and police personnel

Category	Authorized for 2017/18[a]	Proposed for 2018/19	Variance
Military observers	142	142	–
Military contingent personnel	8 593	8 593	–
United Nations police	960	960	–
Formed police unit personnel	1 540	1 540	–
Total	**11 235**	**11 235**	–

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength for 2017/18 on 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing.

16. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2018/19 amount to $379,484,300, reflecting a decrease of $106,829,100, or 22 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The decrease reflects reductions under military contingents ($95.6 million, or 25.5 per cent), United Nations police ($5.1 million, or 10.6 per cent) and formed police units ($6.2 million, or 10.7 per cent), due mainly to the repatriation of military and police personnel, including six infantry units, one medical unit and two formed police units of up to 140 personnel each, during the 2017/18 period, in accordance with the reconfiguration of the Operation[5] (ibid., paras. 101–103).

Refurbishment of warehouses

17. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that an increase of $349,600, or 7.2 per cent, is proposed under rations for formed police units, attributable mainly to provisions for the refurbishment of warehouses, in respect of the planned establishment of a new rations contract during 2018/19. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, in accordance with the terms of the current UNAMID rations contract, upon expiration of the contract on 1 April 2019, the contractor shall transfer to the Operation all facilities, assets and equipment, which can later be transferred to a new contractor. Prior to the transfer to a new contractor, it would be necessary to refurbish, by April 2019, the three warehouses and associated equipment, which would have reached six years of life and been subjected to the extreme climatic conditions of the mission area. It has been observed that the efficiency of some assets directly related to food safety and quality, including cold rooms, compressors and bakery equipment, has noticeably decreased. Furthermore, none of the warehouses are currently equipped with a buffer compartment, which is an important requirement in maintaining the cold chain during loading and offloading.

18. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the proposed budget for 2018/19 contained total estimated requirements of $1.5 million for the refurbishment of the three warehouses and associated equipment (or $500,000 per warehouse), reflected on a prorated basis under the rations line item under the military contingents ($1,275,000) and formed police units ($225,000). **While recognizing the importance of maintaining food safety and quality for military and police personnel, the Committee is not fully convinced with regard to the provision proposed and recommends a 20 per cent reduction to the proposed estimated costs for the**

[5] The maximum authorized strength was reduced from 15,698 personnel to 8,593 personnel for military contingent personnel; from 1,583 officers to 960 officers for United Nations police officers; and from 1,860 personnel to 1,540 personnel for formed police unit personnel, by the end of the 2017/18 period.

refurbishment of the three warehouses and associated equipment (a reduction of $300,000).

19. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved for 2017/18*[a]	*Proposed for 2018/19*	*Variance*
Posts			
International staff	713	673	(40)
National staff[b]	1 822	1 588	(234)
General temporary assistance positions	97	97	–
United Nations Volunteers	128	109	(19)
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–
Total	**2 766**	**2 473**	**(293)**

[a] Reflects the approved staffing level as at 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing.
[b] Includes National Professional Officers and national General Service staff.

20. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to $219,368,400, reflecting a decrease of $24,901,600, or 10.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that the decrease is attributable mainly to reduced requirements due to the proposed abolishment of 293 posts and positions effective 31 December 2018, in addition to the abolishment of a total of 584 posts and positions during the 2017/18 period, in line with the recommendations of the civilian staffing review (ibid., paras. 104–105 and sect. V.B).

21. The Secretary-General states that the civilian staffing review undertaken during the 2017/18 period, to align the staffing levels in accordance with the reconfiguration of the Operation, resulted in the proposed three-phase reduction of posts and positions. The first phase resulted in the abolishment of 426 posts and positions effective 31 December 2017, while the second phase will result in the abolishment of 158 posts and positions on 30 June 2018. In the third phase, 293 posts and positions are proposed for abolishment effective 31 December 2018 (A/72/794, para. 13). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, of the total of 877 posts and positions abolished and proposed for abolishment during the three phases for 2017/18 and 2018/19, 547 were encumbered and 330 were vacant.

Vacancy rates

22. The proposals of the Secretary-General on vacancy rates are set out in section II.D of the budget document (A/72/794). For international staff, a 7 per cent vacancy rate is proposed for the 2018/19 period, compared with 11.5 per cent for 2017/18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the lower vacancy rates projected for the 2018/19 period for some categories of civilian personnel reflect the abolishments occurring during the 2017/18 period and those planned for the 2018/19 period. The Committee notes from the information provided to it that as at 28 February 2018, for the current period, the actual average vacancy rate for mission personnel was 15.3 per cent, and the actual average vacancy rate for international staff was 7.2 per cent. **The Committee therefore recommends that a vacancy rate of 7.2 per cent for international staff be applied to the estimates for 2018/19. Any related operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.**

Recommendations on posts

23. A total of 2,473 civilian posts are proposed for 2018/19, comprising the following staffing changes: (a) the proposed abolishment of 293 posts and positions (40 international posts, 5 National Professional Officer posts, 229 national General Service posts and 19 United Nations Volunteer positions); and (b) the proposed redeployment of the post of Spokesperson (P-5) from the Communications and Public Information Section to the Office of the Joint Special Representative. It is indicated that the redeployment is proposed to ensure a direct and more efficient communication capacity in the immediate office of the Joint Special Representative in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2363 (2017). Owing to the complexities associated with the reconfiguration of the Operation under the two-pronged approach, it is paramount that communications about the activities of the Operation and its future be provided in a consistent, accurate and unified manner (ibid., para. 57).

24. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraph 22 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff.**

Mission structures and reconfiguration

25. The Board of Auditors analysed the organization of the political and protective pillars of UNAMID (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 515–525).[6] The Board noted that the civilian staffing review recommended, inter alia, (a) merging the current Civil Affairs Section and Community Stabilization Section to capitalize on existing mechanisms for community support projects; and (b) developing a mission plan that is specific enough to enable all sections and units to connect and ensure the complementarity of their concepts and workplans with the new mission concept. The Board is of the opinion that simultaneously downsizing and reconfiguring a mission is a task that requires constant guidance from Headquarters during the entire alignment process. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations reported to the Board that a new organizational structure aligned to the new mission concept had been approved by the General Assembly, together with the budget for 2017/18, in its resolution 72/259 and that the Community Stabilization Section and Civil Affairs Section had been merged into the Governance and Community Stabilization Section. Furthermore, the Department also indicated to the Board that the new mission plan would need to be aligned with the strategic review scheduled for early 2018 (see para. 12 above). **The Advisory Committee concurs with the Board of Auditors that Headquarters should further support UNAMID in realigning its structures in accordance with the adjusted mission concept and mission plan in order to promote coordination and enhance efficiency. The Committee is of the view that such continuous support is essential, taking into account the ongoing strategic review and potential impact on the Operation.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	Apportioned 2017/18	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Operational costs	180 357 800	183 737 800	3 380 000

[6] As set out in the report of the Board of Auditors, the pillars comprised the following: (a) Civil Affairs Section; (b) Human Rights Section; (c) Political Affairs Section; (d) Communications and Public Information Section; (e) Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Liaison Section; (f) HIV/AIDS Unit; (g) Child Protection Unit; (h) Community Stabilization Section; and (i) Rule of Law Section (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 515).

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to $183,737,800, reflecting an increase of $3,380,000, or 1.9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General proposes decreases under all categories of expenditure, except two for which increases are proposed: official travel ($0.2 million) and other supplies, services and equipment ($6.3 million) (see A/72/794, sect. II.A).

Official travel

27. A provision of $3,056,900 is proposed under official travel for 2018/19, representing an increase of $205,200, or 7.2 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18, attributable mainly to increased provisions for travel for the Operation's support functions (ibid., para. 108). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increases are attributable mainly to increased requirements for travel within the mission area in respect of operational matters related to the newly established temporary operating base at Golo and an increase in the contributions towards the travel of expert panels, under cost-sharing arrangements. **Taking into account the closure of 11 team sites/camps during the 2017/18 period and the total of 877 posts and positions abolished and proposed for abolishment during 2017/18 and 2018/19 (see A/72/794, para. 109, and para. 21 above), the Committee recommends that the provision for 2018/19 be maintained at the same level as the resources approved for 2017/18 under official travel (a reduction of $205,200).**

Other supplies, services and equipment

28. The proposed provision of $35,986,100 for 2018/19 represents an increase of $6,279,700, or 21.1 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. It is indicated that the increased requirements are attributable mainly to a provision for a contingent liability, offset in part by lower requirements for other freight and related costs (A/72/794, para. 112). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the provision for a contingent liability should not be included, at this stage, in the proposed budget and that expenditure, if any, could be reflected in the performance report for the period. The Committee trusts that more information on the matter will be provided to the General Assembly.**

Consultants and consulting services

29. The proposed provision of $56,800 for 2018/19 represents a decrease of $176,200, or 75.6 per cent. However, the Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that under individual consultants, the proposal includes an increase of $19,800, or 116.5 per cent, including proposed requirements for (a) monitoring and evaluation of the Operation's refined protection of civilians strategy implementation (one consultant, for $5,000); (b) fundraising activities for the implementation of the United Nations joint rule of law programme (one consultant, for $2,300); and (c) providing HIV/AIDS sensitization training across Darfur (five consultants, for a total of $6,000). **The Committee notes that the Operation has a Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Liaison Section, a HIV/AIDS Unit and a Rule of Law Section (see footnote 6 above). The Committee is of the view that, as mandated activities, these activities should be undertaken by Operation staff and recommends a reduction of $13,300.**

Facilities and infrastructure

30. Under maintenance services, a provision of $2,533,900 is proposed, representing a decrease of $735,900, or 22.5 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. However, the Advisory Committee also notes that for the 2017/18 period, expenditure amounted to ($54,300) as at 28 February 2018, compared

with the approved resources of $3,269,800 for the period. **Noting the expenditure pattern for the current period, the Committee recommends a reduction of $1 million to the proposed provision of $2,533,900 for 2018/19.**

31. Concerning petrol, oil and lubricants, a provision of $33,251,100 is proposed for 2018/19, an increase of $687,700, or 2.1 per cent, owing to the higher projected cost of $0.93 per litre for generator fuel applied in the proposed budget, compared with $0.91 per litre applied for 2017/18. Of the total provision, an amount of $22,509,446 is proposed for generator fuel. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that UNAMID currently operates a total of 1,417 generators. While no generators were replaced during the 2016/17 period, it is planned to replace 30 generators in each of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods. The Committee was further informed that, as part of the Operation's strategy to reduce its carbon footprint and minimize its dependency on fossil fuels, UNAMID plans to acquire 15 heavy-duty generators (500 kVA–750 kVA) as replacements for 30 generators that are planned for write-off during the budget period. The acquisition of the heavy-duty generators would contribute to the reduction of fuel consumption by enabling synchronized and automated generator power stations, as synchronized generators shut down in sequence when the power demand decreases. **Taking into account the planned efficiency from generator synchronization, the closure of 11 team sites during 2017/18 and the sources of renewable energy (see paras. 35 and 36 below), the Committee recommends a 10 per cent reduction to the proposed provision of $22,509,446 for generator fuel (a reduction of $2,250,945).**

Ground transportation

32. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that a 5 per cent reduction ($223,979) is made for "off-road adjustment" to the petrol, oil and lubricants cost estimates under ground transportation for 2018/19. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that UNAMID estimates that 5 per cent of its vehicle holdings during the 2018/19 period would be off-road at any given time for a variety of reasons, including for repair and maintenance services, accident damage repair or while awaiting spare parts for the completion of repairs. Those vehicles would not be operational during such time and would not be consuming fuel, oil and lubricants. As such, an adjustment is made to the total estimated cost of fuel, oil and lubricants to reflect the time the vehicles are not operational or off-road. **Noting that a few peacekeeping operations apply off-road adjustments to the petrol, oil and lubricants cost estimates under ground transportation in the preparation of peacekeeping budgets, the Committee expects that information with respect to such adjustments in peacekeeping budgets will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Air operations

33. A provision of $65,333,600 is proposed for air operations, representing a decrease of $254,600, or 0.4 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. With respect to aircraft utilization, the Board of Auditors has observed that the Operation had a utilization rate of 63 per cent for 2016/17 (the ratio of actual hours flown versus flying hours budgeted). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the number of aircraft proposed for the 2018/19 period remains the same as that approved for 2017/18 (4 fixed-wing and 17 rotary-wing) and that the number of flight hours proposed for the 2018/19 period (11,839 flight hours) has been reduced by 1,038 hours compared to the 12,877 flight hours in 2017/18. The Committee was also informed that, given the sizable decrease in flight hours proposed, the modest decrease of $254,600 proposed for the 2018/19 period is attributable mainly to the impact on the air operations line item of the reductions

made by the General Assembly in the final approved budget for the 2017/18 period. The Committee makes further observations and recommendations on air operations in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

34. **Subject to its observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 27 to 31 above, and paragraph 36 below, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

4. Other matters

Environmental initiatives

35. The Board of Auditors observed that during the period from June 2011 to March 2017, UNAMID installed and maintained 700 photovoltaic panels across the mission's area at a total cost of $279,300. According to the Board, 70 panels were not operational and two photovoltaic systems were not properly maintained. On energy production, UNAMID monitored only one of eight photovoltaic systems, which produced 27.6 per cent of the expected power generation during 2017 based on the estimate by the Board. The Board indicates that photovoltaic systems only fulfil their environmental and economic purpose if they work efficiently and that low power generation does not allow for the recovery of the costs of the investment. The Board recommends that renewable sources of energy be used to achieve the environmental objectives and that an action plan be prepared to install meters in unmetered power generators in a timely manner, and to make operative and regularly monitor the energy production of all photovoltaic systems. UNAMID has confirmed that plans were in place to start regular monitoring and analysis of the energy generated by the photovoltaic systems (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 446, 447 and 449).

36. With respect to solar energy, the Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that one solar electric system will be implemented during the 2017/18 period and one during the 2018/19 period and that the actual cost of the system amounted to $281,300 for the 2017/18 period, while the budgeted amount for the system planned for the 2018/19 period is $400,000. Both solar electric systems will be installed at the Operation's headquarters in El Fasher, with a view to installing similar systems in other mission locations in a phased approach. In addition, a total of 10 boreholes are planned to be connected to solar-powered pumps during the 2017/18 period, with an additional 10 boreholes planned for the 2018/19 period. **Noting the lack of justification for the higher amount of $400,000 proposed for one solar electric system for 2018/19, compared with the actual cost of $281,300 for 2017/18, the Committee recommends a reduction of $100,000 for the planned procurement of one solar electric system.**

37. Concerning soil contamination and remedial actions, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that UNAMID has commenced the phased construction of oil containment structures around all generator houses, as well as initiated a soil bioremediation. The construction of oil containment structures is approximately 50 per cent complete in El Fasher and Nyala, while construction in other locations is in the initial stages. In respect of soil bioremediation, UNAMID collects contaminated soil from affected areas and carries out bioremedial measures at a dedicated yard at mission headquarters in El Fasher.

38. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the environmental efforts of UNAMID, in particular with respect to the generation of solar energy, continue to proceed without urgency and remain primarily in their planning stages. The Committee recalls that it has urged the Operation, on a number of occasions, to strengthen its environmental efforts and to pursue the utilization of alternative renewable energy sources in order to minimize the need for fossil-fuel-powered equipment, including generators. In addition, the Committee**

continues to emphasize that efforts aimed at reducing the overall environmental footprint of UNAMID should be strengthened, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 69/307 and 70/286 (see A/72/636, para. 49; and A/71/836/Add.7, para. 64).

Other programmatic activities

39. Information on the other proposed programmatic activities for 2018/19 is provided in paragraphs 98 and 99 of the budget document (A/72/794). The proposed provision of $5,311,000 for 2018/19 represents an increase of $911,000, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18, comprising: (a) community stabilization projects ($4,500,000); (b) peacebuilding activities ($811,000), in accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017); and (c) rule of law activities to support the re-establishment of criminal justice institutions and provide capacity-building, logistical and infrastructure support to key justice and prison institutions in select priority areas in all five Darfur States ($500,000).

40. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the need for comprehensive guidance on: (a) explanations of the types of programmatic activity to be funded by peacekeeping missions; (b) justifications that the activities support the implementation of mandated tasks in each mission; (c) the mission's comparative advantage in the delivery of these activities, as well as those of implementing partners; (d) the contractual arrangements in place with implementing partners; and (e) appropriate oversight, governance and reporting mechanisms (A/71/836, para. 178). While the Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General does not provide comprehensive information relating to scope, criteria, governance and accounting procedures for programmatic activities funded from peacekeeping operations, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/286, it does not object to the proposed resources for other programmatic activities at this stage.** The Committee makes further observations and recommendations on programmatic activities for the 2018/19 period in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

V. Conclusion

41. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 are indicated in section V of the performance report (A/72/687). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $11,438,300 for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to $22,658,500 for the period ended 30 June 2017, be credited to Member States.**

42. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget (A/72/794). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 18, 22, 27 to 31 and 36 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by $11,233,600, from $782,590,500 to $771,356,900. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $771,356,900 for the maintenance of the Operation for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/687)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/794)
- Financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/72/5 (Vol. II))
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/756)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/770)
- Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and on the revised budget from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (A/71/836/Add.7 and A/72/636)
- General Assembly resolutions 70/284, 71/310 and 72/259
- Security Council resolutions 1769 (2007) and 2363 (2017)